



CITY OF FAIRFIELD

Founded 1856

Incorporated December 12, 1903

Home of
Travis Air Force Base

July 2, 2007

COUNCIL

Mayor
Harry T. Price
707.428.7395
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Jack Balsen
707.429.6298
Councilmembers
707.429.6298
Marilyn Farley
Frank Kardos
John Mraz
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City Manager
Kevin O'Rourke
707.428.7400
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City Attorney
Greg Stepancich
707.428.7419
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City Clerk
Arletta Cortright
707.428.7384
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City Treasurer
Oscar G. Reyes, Jr.
707.428.7496

The Honorable David E. Power
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
Solano Superior Court
600 Union Ave
Fairfield, CA 94533

Dear Judge Power:

This letter is in response to the 2006-2007 Grand Jury Report entitled "Fairfield Police Department Holding Facility" dated May 15, 2007. The Grand Jury has asked for a written response to the Findings and Recommendations contained in the report pursuant to Penal Code Section 933.05.

Finding #1 – The holding cells appear to meet the needs of the Fairfield Police Department

Recommendation #1 – None

The City of Fairfield appreciates the Grand Jury's comments and agrees that our holding cells meet the needs of the Fairfield Police Department.

Finding #2 – There is a vacancy of 15 sworn officers.

Recommendation #2 – The Department should actively continue recruiting efforts to eliminate the shortage

Since the Grand Jury visited the Fairfield Police Department, staff has hired three additional Police Officers so that the Department's current shortage is twelve. The Department presently has six Police Officer Trainees in the Napa Valley Police Academy; one is scheduled to graduate in July and five in December. If these trainees are successful, they will reduce our shortage to six. Presently, the Department is recruiting for these six vacant Police Officer positions.

The Fairfield Police Department actively recruits candidates for Police Officers. The Department advertises in state-wide professional journals, print media in Solano, Contra Costa and Sacramento counties, local radio stations and our local TV Channel 26.

DEPARTMENTS

Community Services
707.428.7465
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Finance
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Fire
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Human Resources
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Planning & Development
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Police
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Public Works
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In February, the Department conducted an "open test" for entry level Police Officer. Over 150 people applied for Police Officer and took a written and physical test. Sixty-nine candidates passed the test; the Police Department interviewed all successful candidates. Twenty-nine candidates successfully completed the interviews. Twenty-one of those candidates were screened out of the hiring process during background investigations. Ultimately, five candidates successfully completed the entire process and began the Police Academy on July 7.

The Fairfield Police Department conducted another "open test" for entry level Police Officer on June 22. 143 people applied for Police Officer and took a written and physical test. Forty-five passed the tests and will be invited for oral interviews. We have reserved five spaces for successful candidates reserved in the January class of the Napa Valley Police Academy.

The Department actively recruits qualified candidates for these vacant positions. It is difficult to find qualified applicants. The Department is confident that they will have all current vacancies filled by the Spring of 2008.

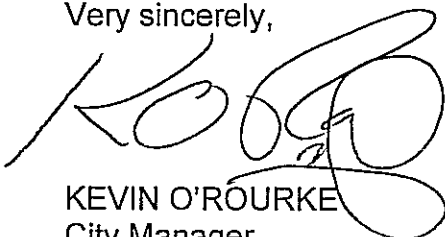
Finding #3 – The D.A.R.E. program has been suspended

Recommendation #3 – The Department should research successful programs comparable to D.A.R.E and consider adopting for use in Fairfield schools

The Fairfield Police Department and Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District discontinued D.A.R.E. due to mixed reviews about the success of D.A.R.E and for fiscal reasons. Presently, there are no discussions between the two organizations about a possible replacement program. The School District is more interested in funding additional Police Officers to be at the alternative High Schools and Middle Schools, and the Police Department does not have the personnel resources to teach such a program. The Fairfield Police Department is receptive to discussion about potential replacement programs, if we have the personnel and financial resources.

The City of Fairfield appreciates the opportunity to have the Grand Jury inspect our holding area and facilities and comment on the recruiting and drug prevention efforts of the Fairfield Police Department. We appreciate the work of the Grand Jury and look forward to continuing to work with this group of dedicated individuals.

Very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K O'Rourke', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

KEVIN O'ROURKE
City Manager
City of Fairfield